

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-20 EUR-25

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01

SAJ-01 /159 W

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R 131500Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2478

INFO SECDEF

CSAF

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

7206TH AB GRP

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0954

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR GR US

SUBJ: PAYMENT OF LANDING FEES BY MAC CHARTER

AIRCRAFT AT HELLENIKON AIRPORT

REF A. ATHENS 491 (NOTAL) B. ATHENS 761 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. ACKNOWLEDGING PRECLUSIVE LANGUAGE OF RELEVANT AGREEMENT, FONOFF NEVERTHELESS ASKED BECAUSE OF INCREASED FREQUENCY OF SUCH FLIGHTS WHETHER LANDING FEES MIGHT NOT BE PAID. EMBOFFS POINTED OUT PROBLEMS THIS WOULD CREATE. EMBASSY INTENDS TO DEFER REPLYING BUT SUGGESTS CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO PAYING THE FEES IF THE GOG IS FORTHCOMING ON THE SOUDA BAY NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING COURSE OF MEETING ON OTHER SUBJECTS (REF B) ON FEB 5, MIGLIARESSIS INTRODUCED SUBJECT OF LANDING FEES. HE REPORTED THAT GREEK CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES HAD URGED FONOFF TO FIND WAY TO OBTAIN PAYMENT FROM MAC
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CHARTER AIRCRAFT. RATIONALE WAS THAT AT TIME RELEVANT

AGREEMENT SIGNED (I.E. 1953) AND FOR LONG TIME THEREAFTER SUCH FLIGHTS WERE INFREQUENT, PERHAPS ONE PER YEAR, WHEREAS IN RECENT YEARS FREQUENCY HAD BECOME MUCH GREATER. MIGLIARESSIS ASKED IF IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE, DESPITE LANGUAGE OF AGREEMENT, TO HAVE LANDING FEES PAID. HE FELT THIS WOULD ONLY marginally REDUCE PROFIT OF CHARTERED CARRIER.

3. EMBOFFS SAID, CORRECTLY IT IS HOPED, THAT CHARTER CARRIERS DOUBTLESS BILL MAC FOR LANDING FEES, ETC. AND THAT PAYMENT OF SUCH FEES WOULD THEN AMOUNT TO CHARGE AGAINST USG. IN VIEW OF THIS, AND OF EXISTENCE AT SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OF AGREEMENT EXEMPTING AIRCRAFT UNDER US CONTROL FROM PAYMENT OF LANDING FEES, EMBOFFS INDICATED THAT THEY COULD NOT HOLD OUT HOPE FOR USG ACQUIESCENCE IN REQUEST.

4. UNLESS DEPT INSTRUCTS US TO CONTRARY, WE PROPOSE NOT TO RESPOND TO MIGLIARESSIS INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME IN THE HOPE HE HAS MET THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENT BY RAISING IT WITH US. HOWEVER, WE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER PAYING THE LANDING FEES WHICH WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE MORE THAN \$1000 PER YEAR IF THE GREEKS ARE FORTHCOMING IN THE SOUDA BAY NEGOTIATIONS, ESPECIALLY SINCE WE ARE NOT GOING TO PROVIDE THE ASSISTANCE REQUESTED BY THE GREEK AIR FORCE. ANOTHER FACTOR TO BE CONSIDERED IS THAT WE ARE ASKING FOR A LIBERALIZATION OF THE TERMS OF THE 1959 AGREEMENT ON SOUDA AB WHICH WE HAVE EXCEEDED IN PRACTICE FOR MANY YEARS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT MAY BECOME DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN THE POSITION THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO ADJUSTMENT IN THE TERMS OF THE 1953 AGREEMENT ON LANDING RIGHTS TO ACCOMODATE THE GOG. TASCA

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